

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests this Amendment After Final Action (Amendment AF") be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicant submits that the Amendment AF presents the claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Moreover, the Amendment AF responds to arguments first presented in the Final Office Action mailed September 10, 2002. There are therefore, good and sufficient reasons why this Amendment AF is necessary, why this AF was not earlier presented, and why this Amendment AF should be admitted now. Furthermore, Applicant believes that consideration of this Amendment AF could lead to favorable action that would remove one or more issues for appeal.

Claim 1 stands objected for a minor informality. Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,473,144 to Mathurin, Jr. (Mathurin) in view of U.S. Patent 6,053,748 to Bricaud et al. (Bricaud).

Applicant has amended claims 1-6, 9, and 10 as shown in the attached Appendix. The amendments to claims 1-6, 9, and 10 do not add new matter. Applicant submits that the amendment to claim 1 cures the Examiner's objection to claim 1.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is not rendered unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mathurin in view of Bricaud. Claim 1, as amended, recites a security system having a combination of elements including, *inter alia*, the elements of:

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

a chip card reader in a format of a PC card; . . .

a fingerprint sensor module which is coupled to the chip card reader; . . . wherein the fingerprint sensor module comprises an **interface for a connection to a network.**

(emphasis added)

Mathurin discloses an apparatus 10 having a fingerprint scanning screen 20 and a fingerprint scanner 22 for identifying fingerprints on a credit card 12. (col. 14, ll. 6-22). The apparatus 10 of Mathurin, however, is **not** a chip card reader in a format of a PC card, as recited in claim 1. Furthermore, Mathurin does not disclose or suggest that the apparatus 10, fingerprint scanning screen 20, or fingerprint scanner 22 are connected to a network. Therefore, Mathurin fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 1.

Bricaud fails to cure the deficiencies of Mathurin. First, Bricaud is a PC card to connect to a SIM Card, which is also **not** a chip card reader in a format of a PC card coupled to a fingerprint sensor module, as recited in claim 1. Second, Bricaud does not teach or suggest using a fingerprint sensor module connected to a network. Therefore, Bricaud also fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 1.

It is also respectfully submitted that Mathurin fails to teach or suggest a combination with Bricaud, and Bricaud fails to teach or suggest a combination with Mathurin. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner admits that Mathurin fails to teach a chip card reader in a format of a PC card, and alleges that Bricaud teaches such a chip card reader. (9/10/02, Final Office Action, at 4). Bricaud, however, lacks a PC card reader coupled to a fingerprint sensor module. Therefore, it would be

impermissible hindsight to combine the teachings of Mathurin with Bricaud based on Applicant's own disclosure. Even if such a combination was permissible, it would still neither teach nor suggest at least the claim elements noted above.

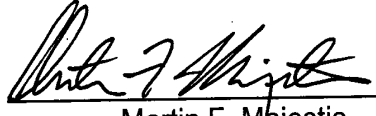
Accordingly, neither Mathurin nor Bricaud, individually or in combination, teach or suggest the limitations of claims 1-6 and 9-12. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-6 and 9-12 are allowable over the cited art of record and in condition for allowance.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 9, 2002

By: 
Martin F. Majestic
Reg. No. 25,695

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FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com



APPENDIX

Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled. Claims 11 and 12 are newly added.

Claims 1 to 6, 9, and 10 have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A security system for identity and authorization checking in a protected communication environment, comprising:
 - [-] a chip card reader in [the] a format of a PC card;
 - [-] a chip card having personal [data] information stored thereon;
 - [-] a fingerprint sensor module which is coupled to the chip card reader;
 - [-] a validation means for validating the personal [data] information read from the chip card depending on data provided by the fingerprint sensor enabling an identity and authorization check of the user[.] ; and
wherein the fingerprint sensor module comprises an interface for a connection to a network.

2. (Amended) The security system according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the fingerprint sensor module is [arranged on a module] coupled with the chip card reader by a detachable plug connection.

3. (Amended) The security system according to claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the fingerprint sensor module is adapted to be slipped onto a narrow end face of the chip card reader from which the chip card projects.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

4. (Twice Amended) The security system according to claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein a slot is disposed in the fingerprint sensor module for the chip card to pass therethrough.

5. (Twice Amended) The security system according to any of claims 2 to [5] 4, [characterized in that] wherein the fingerprint sensor module includes a SAM or SIM card reader.

6. (Twice Amended) The security system according to claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein the data provided by the fingerprint sensor module is processed along with the data read from the SAM or SIM card in an internal processor of the fingerprint sensor module to yield an encoded identity information.

9. (Twice Amended) The security system according to claim [8] 1, [characterized in that] wherein messages signed by the characteristic data set provided by the fingerprint sensor module are able to be exchanged with the communication environment via the interface.

10. (Amended) The security system according to claim [2] 1, wherein the chip card reader and the fingerprint sensor module are provided with first and second local buses, respectively, the buses being coupled with each other via [the] a detachable plug connection.

FINNEGAN
HENDERSON
FARABOW
GARRETT &
DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005
202.408.4000
Fax 202.408.4400
www.finnegan.com

11. (New) The security system according to claim 1, wherein the chip card reader is equipped with an interface for a connection to a local host device to establish a secure communication between the local host device and the network.

12 (New) A security system for identity and authorization checking in a protected communication environment, comprising:

a chip card reader in a format of a PC card;

a chip card having personal information stored thereon;

a fingerprint sensor module which is coupled to the chip card reader;

a validation means for validating the personal information read from the chip card depending on data provided by the fingerprint sensor enabling an identity and authorization check of a user; and

wherein the fingerprint sensor module is coupled with the chip card reader by a detachable plug connection and including a SAM or SIM card reader, the data provided by the fingerprint sensor module being processed along with the data read from the SAM or SIM card in an internal processor of the module to yield an encoded identity information.

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